

## THE FIGHT FOR IRELAND.

T. P. GILL DESCRIBES THE CONFLICT.

## A RING'S POWER IN DANGER.

HE IS THE FIRST OF THE IRISH LEADERS TO ARRIVE HERE—THE POTATO FAMINE OUTSIDE OF POLITICS.

Without any previous warning and without any Irishman in the city knowing anything about it, Thomas P. Gill set foot yesterday in New York, having come from Ireland on the Alaska. Mr. Gill is an Irish Member of Parliament, a follower of Mr. Parnell, and a representative of South Louth. He is numbered among the most prominent members of the Irish Parliamentary party, having completed his education in Trinity College, Dublin. In the trying days of the Land League, when W. E. Forster, then Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, was arresting prominent Irish leaders, and locked up in Kilmainham Jail among others William O'Brien, at the time editor of "United Ireland," Mr. Gill took Mr. O'Brien's place and continued as an editorial writer on the paper during the imprisonment of the member for South Tyrone. He came to this country in 1883, and was employed for some time as a writer on "The Catholic World" in this city. He was elected to Parliament unopposed by the people of south Louth, while he was still in New York, and he soon left here to take his seat. He drove from the pier yesterday to the Fifth Avenue Hotel, where he is staying, and no sooner had his arrival become known than several prominent Irishmen called to pay their respects, among the first being General James E. O'Farrell, assistant superintendent of immigration. Mr. Gill greeted a reporter of The Tribune who called upon him cordially, and expressed his surprise and delight at the great progress made by New York, both as to size and population since his last visit.

"I am," said he modestly and with a smile, "what may be called the first instalment of the delegation of Irish Parliamentarians who are coming to the United States to represent the Irish cause. Our intention, in the first case, was to come in a body, and we had arranged to sail on the *Tentonic* on October 1, but the arrest of John Dillon and William O'Brien obliged us to change our plans."

"Are Messrs. Dillon and O'Brien now on their way here?" asked the reporter.

"They are," replied Mr. Gill, triumphantly, "notwithstanding all Balfour's elaborate efforts to prevent them."

"How did they manage to slip away so successfully?"

"One of our fellow-members of Parliament, William Murphy, owns a yacht, and it is very probable that they left Dillon on that craft, and I hope they reached Havre in time to catch the French boat, for it is not likely that they could have safely embarked at an English port."

"How does Mr. Parnell regard the step?"

"Mr. Parnell," Mr. Gill replied, emphatically, "is the inspiration of the whole affair, and he called a convention in Dublin which decided upon this plan. Every step in the whole transaction was resolved upon only after consultation with Mr. Parnell; for you must remember," continued Mr. Gill, enthusiastically, "that he is the guiding spirit of all our actions, and outside of the Parliamentary party and among the masses of the people his popularity has never been greater than at this moment."

"Are you coming to raise money for the threatened famine?"

"I want it distinctly understood," said Mr. Gill emphatically, "that we come to state the case of Ireland to the American people, and not to appeal for charity. We want to tell the American people of the tremendous struggle that Ireland is carrying on at present. There is an immense conspiracy on foot to destroy the National party in Ireland in the interest of the English Tory government and the landlords. Within four years 50,000 persons have been imprisoned for alleged political offences, and I may say one third of the Irish Parliamentary party have been put in jail from time to time, and the persecution is still going on."

"Will you explain why the flight of Dillon and O'Brien was reported?"

"Indeed, I will, my friend," replied the member for Louth, glibly. "Their arrest came so suddenly that we expected the trial would not last a week. The purpose was to appear from the decision of the magistrates if it should have proved unavoidable, not in the hope of gaining time, which would enable them during the pendency of the appeal to visit America. A week ago last Friday we learned that Balfour's tactics were to delay the trial as long as possible, while O'Brien and Dillon's counsel pleaded for a speedy trial. No less than 200 summonses were issued. It was further learned that they were to be sentenced under an old act of Edward III, which provided an appeal. In this way Balfour could hold them in jail for an indefinite period."

"Will there be any feeling among the Irish that it was cowardice or that it was running away?"

"That is 'hush,'" replied Mr. Gill, sternly. "Of course there will be no such feeling. Why should there be? Why, my good friend, does not everybody know perfectly well, and do not Mr. Dillon and Mr. O'Brien themselves know, that the very moment they stand upon English soil again, it will be a week from now or a year from now, they will be arrested. The trial has stopped for the time Balfour's shameless attempt at the prosecution as well as the presentation of these men, and it will, I am confident, result in great benefit to the Irish cause."

"How is Mr. Parnell's health?"

"It is such that he is powerless for him to act with the greatest energy. His life is precious to Ireland. When the people of Ireland find such a Napoleon as they have found in our leaders, they do not wish that he should die, but they do not wish that he should live, which it was evident that Dillon and O'Brien should come to America was preceded over by Justin McCarthy, the vice-chairman of the Irish Parliamentary party, and all the residing members of the party were invited to attend in reliance by Mr. Parnell."

"Is he threatened with a fine or a prison sentence?"

"He is threatened with a fine or a prison sentence for his conduct in the case of the potato famine in Monmouth County, N. J., Oct. 12 (see page 1)."

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"What are the Irish members coming?"

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"What are the prospects for the success of Home Rule?"

"The prospects are excellent. Once the control of Irish affairs are in Irish hands, you will have heard of the name of Daniel O'Connell, and the name of the man who is the object of our visit to America, and the name of the Plan of Campaign, as it has been called. Mr. Gill said that the scheme had been entirely un-

"What exactly was the plan?"

"Simple enough," he replied. "The tenants or gentry, who are in the ring, and resolved in a body to offer a certain rent to the landlords, and if the landlords refused, to give them to their men. And from then until now these three months have had to do with one another, until now they are here with his wife and son, and have agreed to meet in the office of the attorney general and the solicitor general to effect their separation." This will entail hardship," suggested the reporter.

"Of course, it will," said Mr. Gill, "but the Irish National Party will come to their assistance."

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